

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 02020 231542Z

42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 013846

R 231300Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4207

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L 2020

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: GUARD MEMBERS CHARGED WITH MISTREATMENT OF CAMPESINOS

1. AN EXTENSIVE NATIONAL GUARD OPERATION AGAINST BANDITS AND POSSIBLY GUERRILLAS IN THE MOUNTAIN AREA AROUND MATAGALPA OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAS PRODUCED SOME POTENTIALLY DAMAGING FALLOUT. THE STORY OF THE OPERATION BEGAN UNFOLDING ABOUT ONE WEEK AGO WHEN RUMORS OF MASS DETENTIONS OF CAMPESINOS FILTERED DOWN FROM MATAGALPA AND RECEIVED FRONT PAGE HEADLINES IN OPPOSITION LA PRENSA. ON MAY 15, LA PRENSA CARRIED A REPORT THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF CAMPESINOS WERE BEING VIOLATED IN THE COURSE OF THE GUARD OPERATION AND WAS CONTEMPLATING INTERVENTION ON THEIR BEHALF.

2. ON MAY 17 THE STORY TOOK ON A NEW AND EMOTIONALLY CHARGED DIMENSION WHEN LA PRENSA PUBLISHED THE ACCOUNT OF A WOMEN FROM THE AREA (MRS. AMADA PINEDA DE ARAUZ) WHO ALLEGED THAT SHE HAD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAGU 02020 231542Z

BEEN TAKEN FROM HER HOUSE BY AN AS YET UNIDENTIFIED GUARD

PATROL AND HELD FOR SEVERAL DAYS DURING WHICH SHE WAS BEATEN, HUMILIATED AND RAPED BY 18 GUARD SOLDIERS, INCLUDING THE TWO LIETUENANTS IN COMMAND. MRS. ARAUZ MAINTAINED THAT OVER 100 CAPESINOS WERE BEING HELD ON NEARBY FARMS AND SEVERAL OTHER WOMEN IN THE GROUP HAS BEEN SIMILARLY MISTREATED AND VIOLATED.. SHE LATER APPEARED AT THE GN'S OFFICE OF LAWS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS WITH AN ATTORNEY AND FORMALLY MADE HER CHARGES. THE GUARD HAS SO FAR STATED THE MEDIA THAT IT IS CONDUCTING A FULL, FORMAL INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENT AND WE ARE INFORMED THAT IT HAS DISPATCHED A SPECIAL INVESTIGATORY TEAM TO THE AREA.

3. ON MAY 20 SIX DOCTORS AT I.P. PAVIOV CLINIC, SOME OF WHOM WERE TRAINED IN THE SOVIET UNION, ISSUED A POLITICO/MEDICAL STATEMENT CONCERNING THEIR EXAMINATION OF MRS. ARAUZ WHICH WAS MADE THE DAY FOLLOWING HER RELEASE. THEY CONFIRMED HER CHARGES OF RAPE AND TURTURE AND CALLED FOR PUNISHMENT OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

4. FOR THE PAST FOUR DAYS LA PRENSA HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE FRONT PAGE AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE TO THE PINEDA CASE PLAYING HEAVILY ON THE THEMES OF "NATIONAL INDIGNATION" AND "DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE." RADIO COVERAGE HAS ALSO BEEN EXTENSIVE. CHURCH AUTHORITIES, WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO THE CASE, HAVE MADE SEVERAL GENERAL STATEMENTS DEPLORING DISRESPECT OF WOMEN AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND SEVERAL PRIESTS HAVE BEEN MORE EXPLICIT IN THEIR COMMENTS FROM THE PULPIT.

5. COMMENT: WITH THE NICARAGUAN MAY 30 OBSERVANCE OF MOTHER'S DAY NEAR AT HAND A MOTHER OF FIVE SMALL CHILDREN CHARGING GANG RAPE BY GUARD SOLDIERS HAS OBVIOUS POTENTIAL FOR AROUSING WIDESPREAD PUBLIC OUTRAGE. THE INCIDENT COULD ALSO POTENTIALLY BESMIRCH THE NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF ARMY DAY ON THE GUARD'S 47TH ANNIVERSARY MAY 27. THE GUARD MAY THEREFORE HAVE TO GO BEYOND ITS USUAL TERSE COMMUNIQUE WHEN A QUESTION OF GUARD MISCONDUCT ARISES AND INSTEAD RENDER A FORTHCOMING, FACTUAL RESPONSE TO THE CHARGES, INCLUDING DETAILS ON ANY PUNISHMENT METED OUT IF THEY ARE FOUND TO BE TRUE. GIVEN THE EXPLOSIVE NATURE OF THE PINEDA CASE, IF IT IS NOT CAREFULLY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANAGU 02020 231542Z

AND JUDICIOUSLY HANDLED, IT COULD DAMAGE THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD WHICH HERETOFORE HAD A RELATIVELY CLEAN RECORD IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE CAMPESINO POPULATION.

WARNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL GUARD, HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS COMMENTS, WOMEN, PRISONERS, MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, PRISONERS WELFARE, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU02020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740129-0699
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740524/aaaaaunj.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUARD MEMBERS CHARGED WITH MISTREATMENT OF CAMPESINOS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU, (PINEDA DE ARAUZ, AMACA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005